

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

To place the application in better form, Applicants submit herewith a substitute specification, which includes a new abstract. For the Examiner's convenience, also provided is a marked-up copy of the original specification showing the portions thereof which are being changed. The substitute specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy. Applicants' undersigned attorney has reviewed the substitute specification and submits that the substitute specification contains no new matter.

Claims 10 and 11 are presented for consideration. Claim 10 is the sole independent claim. Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application directed to the subject matter of these claims. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants notes with appreciation that claims 10 and 11 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of their base and intervening claims. To expedite allowance of this application, Applicant has amended claim 10 by substantively incorporating the subject matter of independent claim 7. Applicants submit, therefore, that independent claim 10, as well as claim 11 depending therefrom, should be deemed allowable at the outset.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Turning now to the art rejection, claims 1-9, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,104,108 to Hazelton et al.. Applicants submit that the cited art does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in these claims. Therefore, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

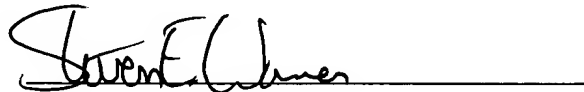
Nevertheless, as discussed above, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1-9, 12 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amended claims 10 and 11 to place them in allowable form. All pending claims, namely, claims 10 and 11, being allowable, Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early notice of allowance.

Applicants further request the Examiner contact their undersigned representative should any matters be deemed outstanding precluding allowance of this application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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